

Hazard Mitigation Plan - Village of Croton-on-Hudson

I. Introduction

Disaster can strike quickly and without warning. The Village of Croton-on-Hudson has suffered losses associated with a variety of hazards occurring within and outside its borders. It is impossible to prevent all disaster situations, but it is increasingly apparent that taking steps to mitigate (i.e. minimize) the impact of disasters before they occur will reduce loss of life and cost of damages.

Improving a community's response and recovery from natural and human caused hazards is only the first step to alleviating the disruption they impose on daily life. Developing strategies that will increase preparedness in case disaster strikes and in some situations, actually preventing a hazard situation from developing in the Village could mean saving lives and property. Strategies can be either long- or short-term goals for changes to emergency response plans. Mitigation is a cost-effective approach to saving a community from loss of life and property associated with vulnerability to hazards. It means taking preemptive action so that the village can have a realistic view of what might actually happen, and most importantly, supply emergency response teams with the supplies they need to act faster and prepare citizens for even the worst situations.

A. Mission of Hazard Mitigation Plan

Mitigation is the cornerstone of emergency management. Cost-effectively preventing or minimizing losses through damage prevention before a hazard event occurs lessens the impact that disasters have on people's lives and property.

B. Goals of Hazard Mitigation Plan

1. **Reduce Risk to Life and Property:** Developing sustainable systems to reduce risk to life and property associated with man-made and natural hazards.
2. **Improve Response and Recovery:** Improving village and community response and recovery in the event these hazards occur allows the village to return to normalcy faster.
3. **Utilize Existing Policies, Reports and Regulations in Mitigation Efforts:** The village utilizes many existing policies, reports and regulations that specifically address either hazard mitigation or emergency response and preparedness to identify risk, develop strategies of mitigation and determine methods of putting strategies into effect. Village policies are shaped by policies established on the county or state level.